

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2000

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 28, 2000

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 2, 2000

SENATE BILL

No. 1408

Introduced by Senator Alarcon
(Coauthors: Senators Murray and Ortiz)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Alquist, Bock, and
Longville)

February 1, 2000

An act to add and repeal Article 7 (commencing with Section 65055) to Chapter 1.5 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, relating to the environment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1408, as amended, Alarcon. Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Grant Demonstration Program.

Under existing law, the Office of Planning and Research is the coordinating agency in state government for environmental justice programs.

This bill would enact the Environmental Justice Technical Assistance Grant Demonstration Program. The bill would require the office, from funds appropriated to it for that purpose, to allocate grants to community-based nonprofit organizations in communities with low-income populations or minority populations to obtain technical assistance in connection with the organization's participation in a decision involving a permit, remediation order, or corrective action by any board, department, or office within the California

Environmental Protection Agency, a decision involving a permit by the Department of Transportation *or a project of the department*, or in a decision involving a certification by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. The office would be required to give priority to grant proposals that would include specified activities. The bill would limit the amount of the grant to \$25,000 for participating in a project.

This bill would require the office to submit an evaluation of the program to the Legislature no later than June 30, 2004. The provisions enacted by the bill would become inoperative on June 30, 2004, and would be repealed on January 1, 2005.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares as
2 follows:

3 (a) Many communities with low-income and minority
4 populations are subject to disproportionately high and
5 adverse human health or environmental effects.

6 (b) One of the causes of this historical inequality of
7 environmental burdens is the lack of financial and other
8 resources in communities with low-income and minority
9 populations to obtain technical assistance with
10 complicated state permitting, remediation order, and
11 corrective action processes.

12 (c) Without that technical assistance, communities
13 with low-income and minority populations are at a
14 disadvantage in terms of effectively voicing their
15 concerns about a project.

16 (d) The provision of technical assistance grants to
17 community-based organizations in communities with
18 low-income and minority populations will facilitate
19 greater participation by those communities in
20 permitting, remediation order, and corrective action
21 decisions and reduce the risk that already overburdened
22 communities will be subject to additional environmental
23 degradations.



SEC. 2. Article 7 (commencing with Section 65055) is added to Chapter 1.5 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, to read:

Article 7. Environmental Justice Technical Assistance
Grant Demonstration Program

65055. (a) From funds appropriated to it for that purpose, the office shall allocate grants to community-based nonprofit organizations in communities with low-income populations or minority populations, as determined by the office, to obtain technical assistance in connection with the organization's participation in ~~a~~ *any of the following*:

(1) A decision involving a permit, remediation order, or corrective action by any board, department, or office within the California Environmental Protection ~~Agency,~~
~~in a Agency.~~

(2) A decision involving a permit by the Department of Transportation, ~~or in a~~ *where an environmental impact report or negative declaration is required, or a decision involving a Department of Transportation project where an environmental impact report or a negative declaration is required.*

(3) A decision involving a certification by the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. ~~A~~

(b) A grant to any community-based nonprofit organization pursuant to this article shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for participation in a project involving one or more permits, certifications, remediation orders, or corrective actions.

65056. In allocating grants pursuant to this article, the office shall give priority to proposals that would increase an organization's ability to engage in one or more of the following activities:

(a) Identify issues related to environmental justice as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 65040.12 of the Government Code.

1 (b) Collect and interpret health and environmental
2 data.

3 (c) Identify pollution sources.

4 (d) Resolve environmental problems.

5 (e) Monitor projects and implementation of
6 mitigation measures.

7 65057. The office shall submit an evaluation of the
8 program authorized by this article to the Legislature no
9 later than June 30, 2004.

10 65058. This article shall become inoperative on June
11 30, 2004, and as of January 1, 2005, is repealed, unless a
12 later enacted statute, that becomes effective on or before
13 January 1, 2005, deletes or extends the dates on which it
14 becomes inoperative and is repealed.

